Foreign countries Interested in Trade with Gujarat

*75. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign countries have shown interest in certain items manfactured in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign countries and the names of items;

(c) whether any foreign country has placed any order for the purchase; and

(d) if so, the value of the purchase order by each country and the total foreign exchange likely to be earned by this export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Commerce, Government of India do not monitor enquiries received by individual exporters in the country. The State-wise data regarding exports is also not maintained by the Ministry of Commerce.

***Lifting of price and distribution control* on coal**

*76. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to lift price and distribution control on coal clearing the way for its free import;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to throw open the coal industry to foreign private capital on the lines of power sector;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) whether import duty on coking coal is going to be reduced to 5 per cent and 35 per cent non coking coal;

(f) what is the present import duty rates on various categories of coal; and

(g) what are the details of import of coal by Government controlled bodies and private sector during the last three years, from different countries and at what rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b). Bureau of Industrial Costs and prices, who have taken up a study of coal industry, in their interim policy recommendations have recommended decontrol of prices of coking coal and some grades of non-coking coal. The argument in favour of the proposal is that the decontrol will help the coal companies to fix their price in line with the market conditions and also improve the performance of some of the loss making companies.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Coal Mines (Natinalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended w.e.f. 09.06.1993 to allow private sector participation in coal mining only for captive purposes for generation of power, and for other end uses to be notified in addition to existing provision for iron and steel. These private sector parties could be Indian or Foreign.

(e) and (f) Information about the likely reduction in import duties on coal is not available in the Ministry.

The existing rates of import duties are as under:

(i) For import of all coals: 85%

Reduced customs duty on following conditions.

(ii) Cooking Coal of ash content below 12% 5%

(iii) Coke with phosphorous content of 0.05% or below when imported into India for manufacture of pig iron. 25%

(g) According to information obtained fron Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, the details are as under:

Description	Year	Qty.	Value (Rs. crores)	Source
Coal, Coke & Briquettes etc.	1990-91	6.20	789.37	Germany,
	1991-92	5.93	1036.41	Norway,
	1992-93 (April–August)	3.23	681.10	U.K., Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Poland etc.

Deletion of items from the list of Essential Commodities from the Essential Commodities Act, 1955

*77. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deleted some items from the list of Essential Commodities after a review of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Following eight items notified under the Essential Commodities Act earlier have been deleted:

1. Press Mud.
2. Carbon Black.
3. Polyethylene and Polyethylene moulding Powder.
4. Polystyrene and Polystyrenc moulding powder.
5. Organic Heavy Chemicals.
6. Inorganic Heavy Chemicals.
7. Cinema Films (Raw).
8. Soda Ash.

In view of the changed scenario of production, availability and nature of the aforesaid commodities, the same have been deleted from the list of Essential Commodities with effect from 27th December, 1993.

विभिन्न यूनियनों को मान्यता प्रदान किया जाना

*78. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न यूनियनों को मान्यता प्रदान किए जाने का मामला कई वर्षों से लम्बित है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यूनियनों की संख्या की जांच करके उन्हें मान्यता प्रदान न किए जाने के क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड से यूनियनों की संख्या की जांच करने के संबंधमें कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में कया कार्रवाई की है?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा): (क) से (घ). विभिन्न राष्ट्रीय तथा अन्तरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों, समितियों, परिषदों, वेतन बोर्डों आदि में अपना प्रतिनिधित्व रखने के प्रयोजन से केन्द्रीय व्यवसाय संगठनों के साथ सम्बद्ध करवाने के लिए व्यवसाय संघों की सदस्यता का सामान्य सत्यापन की प्रक्रिया एक समयसाध्य प्रक्रिया है क्योंकि पूरे देश के विभिन्न संघों से संघटन-वार, राज्य-वार, उद्योग-वार (कृषि-सहित) अति लघु ब्यौरे एकत्र किए जाने और सत्यापित किए जाने होते हैं। 21 और 22 अप्रैल, 1990